Prevention of exploitation of female domestic helps working in metro cities

†3960. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken or to be taken by the Central Government to take necessary steps to prevent the exploitation of female domestic helps working in metropolitan cities through unrecognized employment agencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on date; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Police and Public Order are State subjects, as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. Registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the National Commission for Women has taken cognizance of the issue of exploitation of domestic maids by their employers and the placement agencies and proposes to constitute a committee to examine the issues relating to domestic workers. The bill to protect women against sexual harassment at workplace, which is on the anvil, also includes domestic helps.

Social audit of labour intensive industries

3961. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether to dispel the wrong notion among the developed countries that India engages a large number of child labour in export-oriented industries like carpet, handicrafts, apparel, gems & jewellery and sports goods. Government has proposed to conduct social audit of labour intensive industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether this social audit system will also be extended later to glass bangle industry (Firozabad) and match/fireworks industry centred around Sivakasi in the South?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) While there is no specific proposal for social audit in labour intensive export oriented industries, with a view to eliminating child labour from such industries, necessary steps are taken under the existing laws to prevent child labour in prohibited occupations and processes.

Unemployed persons registered with Employment Exchanges

3962. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people currently unemployed as per the records of Employment Exchanges and otherwise;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is a fact that in the present context Employment Exchanges have ceased to be meaningful places for providing employment as major part of employment is being generated by private sector openly and there is a little of Government placement; and

(c) whether Government is considering any proposal to make these employment exchanges more useful to the community?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) As per latest information available, 39.97 million job seekers, all of whom may not necessarily be unemployed, are registered with employment exchanges in the country as on 31.12.2007.

(b) Employment Exchanges sponsor candidates against the vacancies notified by employers of both public and private sectors. About 2.64 lakh placements have been effected through the employment exchanges as on 31.12.2007.

(c) A Mission Mode Project for upgradation and Modernization of Employment Exchanges has been taken up under National e-governance plan to make them more demand responsive.

Unclaimed deposits in EPFO

3963. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of unclaimed deposits that has accumulated so far in the Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO);

(b) the number of such cases, State-wise;

(c) the reasons attributed to such accumulation;

(d) whether efforts are being made to trace out the *bonafide* subscribers; and

(e) if so, the details of the *bonafide* subscriber with respective amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) The amount lying in the Inoperative Account (earlier known as Unclaimed Deposit Account) as on 31.03.2007 was Rs. 1,624.69 crore.

(b) The details of inoperative accounts as on 31.03.2007 in respect of 21 regions is given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(c) Accumulations in the inoperative account can be attributed to the following factors:

(i) EPF deposits earn better yield and is also exempt from Income Tax.

(ii) Deposits are relatively safe and also free from attachment by any authority/courts.

(iii) Subscribers sometimes have multiple accounts as they do not transfer their accounts upon change in employment.

(iv) it is not mandatory for members to withdraw money even after superannuation.

(d) Regular efforts are made by the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation to trace out the beneficiaries through advertisements in newspapers, interaction with trade unions/ employer, etc.